approved and funds are released to the States, Phase-wise. The details of value of proposals cleared and funds released for construction of roads approved for the last three Phases [Phase-II (2001—03), Phase-III (2003-04) and Phase-IV (2004-05)] and World Bank funded projects [Phase-I (2004-05)] to Uttar Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh is as under:

(*Rs. in crore*)

State	PMGSY		World Bank	
	Value of proposals	Amount released	Value of proposals	Amount released
Uttar Pradesh	2244.73	1238.92	343.94	129.96
Himachal Pradesh	522.48	255.66	154.44	41.44

(b) and (c) As per information received from the State Government, the Badiyara-Nandla road in Shimla district has been completed in the month of June, 2005.

(d) The State Government has reported that construction of Nandla-Mangara road will be considered as per the Comprehensive New Connectivity Priority List (CNCPL) in accordance with the PMGSY Guidelines.

Development of rural areas

†3112. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the criterion fixed by Government to consider a rural areas as a development one;

(b) whether it is a fact that development of rural areas is still unachievable in several areas of the country even after implementation of plethora of schemes by Government since independence by spending several thousand crores of rupees;

(c) if so, the details thereof and corrective measures proposed to be taken by Government in this regard;

(d) whether any study is proposed to be conducted to find out the level of devleopment of rural areas of the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) No criteria for identifying a district as developed has been evolved by the Planning Commission. However, the Planning Commission has criterion for identifying backward district in rural areas.

(b) There may not have been total eradication of poverty, but there has been perceptible impact of the various schemes implemented by Government.

(c) The Ministry of Rural Development emphasis is on creation of more employment opportunities to the rural poor through self and wage employment programmes namely, Swarnajayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana (SGSY) and Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojana (SGRY). The National Food for Work Programmes (NFFWP) has also been launched in 150 most backward districts of 27 States of the country in order to generate supplementary wage employment and to provide food security through the creation of need based economic, social and community assets in these districts. To provide employment in the rural areas to the needy, a comprehensive bill known as "National Rural Employment Guarantee Bill" has also been introduced in the Parliament. With a view to ensure that the benefits of the programmes reach the target group, the Ministry has developed a comprehensive system of Monitoring the implementation and impact of the programmes including utilization of funds through Periodical Progress Reports, National Level Monitor Schemes, District Level with greater involvement of Members of Parliament, Area Officer's Scheme and Performance Review Committee. Besides, the States have been advised to adopt a four-pronged strategy consisting of (i) creation of awareness about the schemes, (ii) transparency (iii) People's Paretnership and (iv) accountability by social audit through the Gram Sabha.

(d) and (e) The Ministry of Rural Development has been conducting the Impact Assessment Studies of the Rural Development Programmes through independent Research Organisations/Agencies on regular basis. The Concurrent Evaluation Studies of the SGSY and SGRY have been done during the period 2002-03 and 2003-04 respectively.